Love is First

We are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! We are a curious, inclusive, and diverse gathering of imperfect people united by our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, and service we seek to know and show the transformative love of God found in the pages of scripture and revealed in the person of Jesus. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Sunday, November 5, 2023

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out-of-town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with our pastor after today's worship or share your information with us in the pew pad. We would love to get to know you better!

Prayer Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by filling out the welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the church office (941) 955-8119.

Children Of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship! At the New Song (9:00 a.m.) service there are coloring sheets on the tables and an activity center in the corner. At the traditional (11:00 a.m.) service, children are invited to take a worship bag hanging in the narthex. Sunday School is from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the children's wing on the second floor. Ask a greeter for directions.

To Aid In Worship In the sanctuary, a T-Coil Hearing Loop is available for people with equipped hearing aids. Headphones to amplify sound are also available at the tech booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship Online Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

Ways To Give There are many ways you can support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the offering plate or you can scan this QR code, it will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you can mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your gifts. Questions? Contact finance manager, Lisa Garcia; (941) 955-8119/lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org.

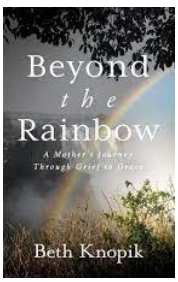
This Sunday (Today) we welcome Sarahi Garcia Gomez to FPC. Sarahi is the wife of Pastor Alison Infante Zamora and an Elder of Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas, Cuba.

Cuba Partnership Trip Our next partnership trip to Cuba is February 22-28, 2024. There will be a meeting on **TODAY at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor** for all those who are interested in participating. Come and meet Sarah Garcia Gomez (Alison's wife) who will also be here that day. If you would like more information about the partnership contact Carol Papa at carolpapasrq@gmail.com. You may learn more by going to *Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada "Juan G. Hall" en Cárdenas* on Facebook. For more information about how the greater U.S. Presbyterian Church is partnering with churches in Cuba, go to www.cubapartnersnetwork.org.



Beyond the Rainbow TODAY at 10:00 a.m.

Beth Knopik is a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church who tragically lost her 16-year-old daughter, Leanna, in 2012. Beth published a memoir, ***Beyond the Rainbow, A Mother's Journey Through Grief to Grace*** in October 2022 and is seeking to tell her story more widely. Beth's life mission is to preserve and expand Leanna's legacy by helping others through the grieving process. Her primary goal is to share the details about her path to healing, to help ease the suffering of others and to let them know they are not alone. Join us **TODAY in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.** for a chance to learn more. Books will be available for purchase.



Story of Faith & Difference #3, Thursday November 9

Our LGBTQ+ group invites you to another "Stories of Faith and Difference" event. Trey Malicoat, who is a therapist, will be the guest leader. Trey's story similar to many, about coming out in mid-life, and dealing with that from a long history in the church.
Theme: Being Seen - The Power of True Authenticity for Healing the Heart & Living Free. **Thursday, November 9**, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Rise Against Hunger, Sunday, December 3

Volunteer Release & Waiver

Scan me

Mark your calendars and sign up to *Rise Against Hunger* with your church family on **Sunday, December 3.** We need 50 volunteers! All ages are welcome to help package over 14,000 meals. Set up will start at 11:30 a.m., meal packing will be 1:00—3:00 p.m.
The mission of Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is to end hunger by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable populations. RAH offers meal-packaging events to create fortified, dehydrated, shelf-stable meals that are transported by RAH to identified areas of food insecurity.
This will be FPC's 5th meal-packing event. Let's work together once again to make a difference!

Free Turkey Dinner, Thursday, November 16

PROUD PARTNER OF ENDING HUNGER ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

On Thursday, November 16, at our weekly food distribution, 9:30-11:00 a.m. we will be providing turkey dinners. Each meal included a 10-14 lb frozen turkey and pre-bagged sides (dry mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans and cranberry sauce). Turkeys are in addition to the regular food distribution, anyone is eligible. If you or someone you know is interested, please come to the drive-through food distribution on Thursday at the south end of Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This is a dire humanitarian crisis and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable, and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. The biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics or nationality. Years of recovery lie ahead. Donation to PDA can be made by giving to FPC by check with Israel/Palestine in the memo or online at www.FirstPresSarasota.org , under online giving select Prsby.Dis.Asst. with Israel/Palestine in the memo.





Our 2024 pledge goal is $880,000. That is a 20% percent increase over our 2023 pledges. This much-needed increase will be used to fund our full-time Director of Christian Education, give our current staff cost-of-living increases, and maintain the excellence of our music program. Your elders and deacons have already set the pace, and we are a little over 75 percent of the way there. Now we need you to get in the boat with your commitment. Please send in your pledge and consider increasing your pledge for 2024. Every Sunday we will report on the progress towards our goal. We hope to have the boat filled by mid-November. Pick up a paddle and help us get there!